

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending May 16, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending May 16, 2004**. Wet weather conditions prevented producers from continuing fieldwork in parts of the State. However, it promoted crop emergence in areas that didn't get an excessive amount of rain. Soil moisture was rated. 7 percent short, 51 percent adequate and 42 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	100	99	99	100	0	3	22	57	18
	Emerged	97	96	98	98					
Cotton	Planted	87	79	77	82	0	6	25	56	13
	Emerged	76	54	68	62					
Rice	Planted	95	93	88	88	0	0	28	66	6
	Emerged	91	74	76	74					
Sorghum	Planted	97	93	91	88	0	0	23	74	3
	Emerged	93	75	84	78					
Soybeans	Planted	93	89	77	72	0	3	23	58	16
	Emerged	87	77	67	57					
Wheat	Heading	100	99	100	100	0	3	32	47	18
	Mature	7	--	9	12					
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	58	47	72	67	0	3	35	54	8
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	7	--	4	6					
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	3	--	4	6	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	86	84	96	89	0	3	24	59	14
Cattle						1	4	19	61	15
Pasture						1	7	27	55	10

**County Agent Comments**

“All the county got some rain last week. We need to clean up our crops now. Almost everything has been planted and we are off to a good start.”

— Don Respons, Bolivar

“Just over 2 inches of rain was received last week around Coahoma County.”

— Ann Ruscoe, Coahoma

“Not much progress was made in the fields last week because of rains. We will not get back in the fields until the latter part of the week. We need to finish planting all crops and clean up what we have planted.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“We received good general rains toward the end of the week. All crops look like they are off to a pretty good start.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We have had rain each day since last Wednesday. Soils are saturated.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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Louisiana State University  
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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
Thomas L. Gregory, State Statistician

“We have been out of the field since Wednesday. We have only gotten about ½ inch of rain with about an inch in some spots as of noon Friday.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Cotton and soybean planting continued until the rainfall mid-week. Cotton emergence appears to be satisfactory in most fields. Early planted corn and soybeans are growing rapidly. Some fields have heavy flushes of grasses and will need postemergence herbicide applications.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“This has been a very good week for producers planting soybeans. Emergence of all crops has been very good. Soil moisture was starting to get low until the rain came the last of the week. Crops are in the best shape for this time of the year that I can remember for a number of years. Cool-season hay harvesting began last week with most bailed without any rain.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Rains have belted the county this weekend. Most beans that were planted will have to be replanted. Farmers were busy over the weekend trying to get water off fields. Insect pressure is light.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Rain fell over the area Wednesday through Sunday. Total accumulations, during that period, ranged from three to six inches. Currently there are limited back-water problems but no serious flooding.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Current rains have essentially replenished the soil moisture supply that had become a limiting factor during the past 3 to 4 weeks in some areas. Some low-lying areas may experience backwater flooding that may threaten seedling cotton and soybeans, but we will not know the impact of this until next week. Warm temperatures along with the rain have been a positive factor, but we need clearing and sunshine now to allow young seedlings to resume development.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Warm-season grasses are coming on. Recent rainfall will boost warm season hay production and the chance of dry weather in the next week will allow for cool-season hay harvest to pick up. Cattle are beginning to benefit from improved pasture conditions.”

— Kipp Brown, Carroll

“The soil moisture we have now is plenty. Some low-lying areas may threaten seedling cotton and soybeans. The sunshine is needed to continue the growing of our crops.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“A dry first part of the week allowed substantial progress on planting completions. All corn and cotton are complete and soybeans are near planting completion. Rains the latter part of the week totaled 1-2 inches across the county. Summer grazing is beginning to progress well and warm-season hay harvest should begin by week's end. Fertilizer and weed controls were applied to pastures.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Around 6 inches of rain has fallen, leaving grounds pretty saturated and bringing all farming activities to a halt. Cool-season forages are losing their quality and rain is still in the forecast.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Rain showers fell beautifully Thursday through Sunday. Most of the county received roughly three to six inches of rainfall. Most of this moisture was absorbed into our terribly dry soils. Summer pastures and corn for silage crops look very good. Ryegrass hay harvest is essentially complete; acreage left will be of low quality due to advanced maturity of the forage.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Rains have been welcome; grass in pastures has really started to grow. Some ryegrass hay has gotten wet from showers and will be lost. Some cotton is being planted no till. Peanut planting has been put on hold till soil dries. Gardens and yards are looking much better.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Fruit and vegetable crops are doing well, but we are still somewhat behind in warm-season forage production.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Tomato spotted wilt is showing up earlier than usual in commercial fields. Rains that we received brought welcomed relief to spring drought.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Pasture grasses and summer hay are beginning to grow since we have received about 5 inches of rain in May. Cattle are getting back some of the condition they lost this winter.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“We had ideal rain this week. It stopped producers from cutting forages but it was a needed rain. It has been overcast the last part of the week so optimal growing conditions have not been reached.”

— Patty Swearingen, Lauderdale

“Rain over the past week was needed. Although a little hay got wet, no one really complained. Corn and other row crops have responded to the rain as did summer pastures.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“The rain on Wednesday stopped cool- season hay harvest; however, blueberries, watermelons, corn, and other vegetable crops welcomed the H<sub>2</sub>O. Blueberry harvest is still expected to begin the last of May. Growers are preparing to harvest a bumper crop.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

Recent rains have all but halted work in the field. Rainfall amounts this week vary in amounts from 2 to 3 inches in location with more rainfall predicted through Saturday of this week. Rainfall has helped to improve the condition of grazing and provided moisture needed for crops such as corn, watermelons and cotton. Weed growth which was minimal has increased with added moisture. Once fields have dried, producers will have more weeds to contend with.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Lots and lots, or should I say buckets and buckets, of rain fell this week in south Mississippi. Hay cutting is on hold along with most other planting or field work.”

— Stan Pace, Stone

Weather Summary from May 10, 2004 to May 16, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	89	57	74	69	+5	2.88 E	+1.	3	3.80E				
Cleveland	86	64	74	70	+4	3.95 E	+2.	5	6.30E				
Tunica				70		3.23	+1.	6	6.15				0.39
Extreme/Average	89	57	74	70	+4	3.35	+2.	5	6.23				0.39
2. North-Central													
HickoryFlat	87	59	72	67	+5	3.28 E	+2.	3	6.62E				
Calhoun City	86	59	71	69	+2	6.25	+4.	4	7.51				
Independence	84	58	70	68	+2	2.18	+0.	3	5.15				
Oxford	88	62	72	68	+4	4.57	+3.	4	9.71				
Extreme/Average	88	58	71	68	+3	4.07	+2.	4	7.25				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	87	62	73	67	+6	3.05	+1.	5	4.68				
Iuka	87	53	69	65	+4	2.79	+1.	3	4.95				
Ripley	86	61	72	67	+5	2.56	+1.	2	5.96				
Tupelo	89	62	72			2.80		4	3.83				
Verona				69		2.89	+1.	3	4.04				0.22
Extreme/Average	89	53	72	68	+4	2.80	+1.	4	4.86				
4. LowerDelta													
Moorhead	86	64	73	72	+1	3.08	+1.	5	4.65				
RollingFork	90	55	73	71	+2	1.52	+0.	6	3.35	71	68	70	
Stoneville	87	64	73	72	+1	4.64	+3.	6	6.14	86	69	75	0.20
YazooCity	89	63	73	72	+1	5.72	+4.	5	8.12				
Extreme/Average	90	55	73	72	+1	3.74	+2.	6	5.57	86	68	72	0.20
5. Central													
Canton	87	63	72	71	+1	5.11	+3.	6	6.79				
Carthage	88	60	72	70	+2	1.61	+0.	3	3.59				
Lexington	87	60	71	69	+2	6.45	+5.	5	8.43				
Eupora	89	58	72	69	+3	4.39	+3.	4	5.67				
Extreme/Average	89	58	72	70	+2	4.39	+3.	5	6.12				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	90	60	73	69	+4	2.42	+1.	4	3.57				0.18
Houston	87	55	71	68	+3	3.17	+1.	4	4.86				
Louisville				68		3.00 E	+1.	3	4.71E				
StateUniversity				69		1.69	+0.	3	3.08	84	72	77	0.21
Extreme/Average	90	55	72	70	+2	2.57	+1.	4	4.06	84	72	77	0.19
7. Southwest													
CrystalSprings	89	61	73	72	+1	6.26	+5.	6	9.67	87	73	78	
Natchez	86	60	74	72	+2	2.89 E	+1.	6	5.92E				
Oakley	89	62	73	71	+2	8.58	+7.	7	13.32	88	69	76	
Vicksburg	87	64	73			7.15		7	9.55				
Extreme/Average	89	60	73	72	+1	6.22	+4.	7	9.62	88	69	77	
8. South-Central													
Collins	87	63	74	70	+4	1.41 E	+0.	4	5.47E				
Columbia	91	63	75	72	+3	4.08 E	+2.	4	7.21E				
Tylertown	88	63	74	72	+2	5.79	+4.	5	11.99				
Extreme/Average	91	63	74	72	+2	3.76	+2.	4	8.22				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	89	57	74			5.16		4	8.68				
Hattiesburg	89	59	74	72	+2	4.33	+3.	4	6.99				
Laurel	89	60	74	71	+3	2.21	+0.	4	7.46				
Newton	85	58	72	69	+3	1.42 E	+0.	4	4.69E		85	68	740.1
Extreme/Average	89	57	73	71	+2	3.28	+2.	4	6.96	85	68	74	0.15
10.Coastal													
BayStLouis	85	58	71	73	-2	5.69	+4.	5	11.88				
Gulfport	82	66	75	74	+1	6.45	+5.	4	11.82				
Pascagoula				72		2.00 E	+0.	3	4.68E				
Poplarville	89	61	73	73	0	5.06	+3.	6	13.08	91	68	75	
Waveland	83	66	76	73	+3	5.94	+4.	5	11.02				
Extreme/Average	89	58	74	73	+1	5.79	+4.	5	12.26	91	68	75	
State	91	53	73	71	+2	4.05	+2.	5	7.09	91	68	75	0.19

DFN = Departure from Normal.